

REMARKS

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as having an informal appearance. Replacement sheets 1-5 are submitted herewith. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Specification

The specification is objected to due to an informality. The required correction is submitted herewith. Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Claims

Claims 1-11 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ellis (US 4,048,495), and claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Spross, et al (U.S. 5,451,779) in view of Ellis. Applicants respectfully traverse those rejections.

The Examiner contends Ellis discloses a tool having at least one movable section disposed between the energy source and the receiver. The Examiner cites the shield (23) of Ellis as meeting that limitation. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's conclusion. The shield (23) indicated by the Examiner is not disposed between the energy source and receiver, but is instead disposed radially outward and adjacent to the source (19) and receiver (20, 21) on the external face of pad (17). Thus, that structural element does not meet the claim limitation.

There is, however, a further shielding material (26) that is disposed between the source and receiver, as is an unlabeled housing material of pad (17). That shielding material (26) and housing, as well as the shield (23) cited by the Examiner, are fixed relative to the energy source and receivers, and their particular movement relative to the tool does nothing to further reduce stand-off effects. Shielding material (26) is designed to eliminate gamma rays from traveling directly from the source through the structural members of pad (17) to receivers (20, 21). It does nothing to reduce the gamma ray count from gamma rays scattered by the drilling fluid (i.e., stand-off effects). Instead, the movement of pad (17) allows pad (17) to better engage the mud layer/mudcake and wellbore wall. That does assist in reducing stand-off effect, as is well known.

in the art. In addition, Ellis's receiver construction and placement is designed to make receiver (20) principally sensitive to gamma rays that have diffused in the materials near the borehole wall, while receiver (21) is principally sensitive to gamma rays that have diffused in the formation. That is the essence of Ellis's contribution to reducing the stand-off effect.

Notwithstanding the arguments above, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 6 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim their invention. Applicants have added the further limitation that the moveable section be moveable relative to the energy source and receiver. Ellis does not disclose a moveable section that allows for relative motion between the moveable section and the energy source and receiver. Because amended claims 1 and 6 are not anticipated by Ellis, none of the claims depending from them can be anticipated by Ellis.

Similarly, because Spross, et al in combination with Ellis fails to disclose a moveable section that allows for relative motion between the moveable section and the energy source and receiver, claim 11 is not obvious in light of those references.

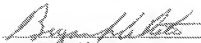
The claims pending in the application are, therefore, believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter these after-final amendments and pass the application to issue.

A one-month extension of time is hereby requested. If the appropriate Petition for an Extension of Time is not attached hereto (or any other Petition required of the application), this statement shall serve as Applicants' Petition to the U.S.P.T.O. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments related to this Response to Deposit Account No. 190610 (24.0914), maintained by Schlumberger Technology Corporation.

The undersigned is available for consultation at any time, if the Examiner believes such consultation may expedite the resolution of any issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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